THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 25, 1809.

Character of the late Lord Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

[From Historic Anecdotes and Secret Memoirs of the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, by Sir Jonah Barrington.]

IRELAND, at this æra (1778) possessed many men of superior capacities, some distinguished by their pure attachment to constitutional liberty, others by their slavish deference to ruling powers and patronizing authorities. Among these whom the spirit of these times called forth to public notice, was one of the most bold and energetic leaders of modern days, an intimate knowledge of whose marked and restless character is a necessary preface and preliminary to a recital of Irish occurrences, in which the effects of his passions will be every where traced, and the mischievous errors of his judgement be perceived and lamented.

This person was John Fitzgibbon, afterwards earl of Clare, attorney-general, and lord high chancellor of Ireland. His ascertained pedigree was short, though his family name bespoke an early respectability. His grandfather was obscure; his father intended for the profession of a popish priest, but possessing a mind superior to the habits of monkish seclusion, procured himself to be called to the Irish bar, where his talents raised him to the highest estimation, and finally established him in fame and fortune.

John Fitzgibbon, the second son of this man, was called to the bar in 1772. Naturally dissipated, he for some time attended but little to the duties of his profession; but on the

death of his elder brother, and his father, he found himself in possession of all those advantages, which led him rapidly forward to the extremity of his objects. Considerable fortune, professional talents, extensive connections, and undismayed confidence, elevated him to those stations, on which he afterwards appeared so conspicuously seated; while the historic eye, as it follows his career, perceives him lightly bounding over every obstacle which checked his course, to that goal where all the trophies and thorns of power were collected for his reception.

From his advancement Ireland computed a new epocha; the period of his life comprised a series of transactions, in the importance of which the recollection of former events was merged and extinguished. To the character of Lord Clare may be traced the occult source of heretofore inexplicable measures; in his influence will be found the secret spring which so often rendered the machine of Irish government rapid and irregular; and as we pass along through those interesting scenes, which distinguished Ireland for twenty years, we often anticipate his councils, and as often mourn the result of our anticipation.

In the earl of Clare we find a man eminently gifted with talents adapted either for a blessing or a curse to the nation he inhabited; but early enveloped in high and dazzling authority, he lost his way, and considering his power as a victory, he ruled his country as a conquest; warm but indiscriminate in his friendships, equally indiscriminate and implacable in his animosities, he carried to the grave the passions of his childhood, and has bequeathed to the public a record,* which determines that trait of his varied character beyond the power of refutation.

He hated powerful talents, because he feared them; and trampled on modest merit, because it was incapable of resistance. Authoritative and peremptory in his address; commanding, able, and arrogant in his language; a daring contempt for public opinion seemed to be the fatal principle which misguided his conduct; and Ireland became divided between the friends of his patronage, the slaves of his power, and the enemies of his tyranny.

His character had no medium, his manners no mediocrity; the example of his extremes was adopted by his intimates, and excited in those who knew him feelings either of warm attachment or of rivetted aversion.

While

* His lordship's last will, now a record in the prerogative office of Dublin, a most extraordinary composition of hatred and affection, piety and malice, &c.

While he held the seals in Ireland, he united a vigorous capacity with the most striking errors; as a judge, he collected facts with a rapid precision, and decided on them with a prompt asperity; depending too much on the strength of his own judgement, and the acuteness of his own intellect, he hated precedent, and despised the highest judicial authorities, because they were not his own.

Professing great controul over others, he assumed but little over himself; he gave too loose a rein to his impressions, consequently the neutrality of the judge occasionally yielded to the irritation of the moment; and equity at times became the victim of dispatch, or a sacrifice to pertinacity.

The calm dignity of a high and elevated mind, deriving weight from its own purity, and consequence from its own example, did not seem the characteristic of the tribunal where he presided; and decorum was preserved less by a respect for his person than a dread of his observation; for he disliked presumption in every person but himself, and discountenanced it in every body, but those whom he patronized.

He investigated fraud with assiduity, and punished it with rigour; yet it was obvious that, in doing so, he enjoyed the double satisfaction of detecting delinquency, and of gratifying the misanthropy of an habitual invective; for never did he poise the scale, without also exercising the sword of justice.

Yet in many instances he was an able, and in many a most useful judge; and though his talents were generally over-rated, and many of his decisions condemned, it may be truly said that, with all his failings, if he had not been a vicious statesman, he might have been a virtuous chancellor.

Though his conversation was sometimes licentious and immoral, and always devoid of refined wit, and of genuine humour, yet, in domestic life, he had many meritorious, and some amiable qualities; an indefatigable and active friend, a kind and affectionate master, an indulgent landlord; liberal, hospitable, and munificent, he possessed the seed of qualities very superior to those which he cultivated; and in some instances evinced himself susceptible of those finer sensations which, if their growth had been permitted in his vigorous and fertile mind, might have placed him on the very summit of private character; but, unfortunately, his temper, his ambition, and his power, seemed to unite in one common cause to impede and stunt the growth of almost every principle which would have become a virtue.

As a politician and a statesman, the character of Lord Clare is too well known, and its effects are too generally experienced, to be mistaken or misrepresented; the æra of his reign was the downfall of his country; his councils accelerated what his

policy might have suppressed, and have marked the annals of Ireland with stains and miseries unequalled and indelible.

In council, Lord Clare, rapid, peremptory, and overbearing, regarded promptness of execution, rather than discretion of arrangement, and piqued himself more on expertness of thought, than sobriety of judgement. Through all the calamities of Ireland, the mild voice of conciliation never escaped his lips; and when the torrent of civil war had subsided in his country, he held out the olive, to show that the deluge had receded.

Acting upon a conviction that his power was but coexistent with the order of public establishments, and the tenor of his office limited to the continuance of administration, he supported both with less prudence and more desperation, than sound policy or an enlightened mind should permit or dictate; his extravagant doctrines of religious intolerance created the most mischievous pretexts for upholding them; and, under colour of defending the principles of one revolution, he had nearly plunged the nation into all the miseries of another.

His political conduct has been accounted uniform, but in detail it will be found to have been miserably inconsistent. In 1781 he took up arms to obtain a declaration of Irish independence; in 1800 he recommended the introduction of a military force, to assist in its extinguishment; he proclaimed Ireland a free nation in 1783, and argued that it should be a province in 1799; in 1782, he called the acts of the British legislature towards Ireland "a daring usurpation of the rights of a free people;"* and in 1800 he transferred Ireland to the usurper. On all occasions his ambition as despotically governed his politics, as his reason invariably sunk before his prejudice.

Though he intrinsically hated a legislative union, his lust for power induced him to support it; the preservation of office overcame the impulse of conviction, and he strenuously supported that measure, after having openly avowed himself its enemy; its completion, however, blasted his hopes, and hastened his dissolution. The restlessness of his habit, and the obtrusiveness of his disposition, became insupportingly embarrassing to the British cabinet; the danger of his talents as a minister, and the inadequacy of his judgement as a statesman, had been proved in Ireland; he had been a useful instrument in that country; but the same line of services which he performed

* In his lordship's answer to the address of Dublin university on the 14th of April, 1782, upon the declaration of rights, he used these words; and added, that he had uniformly expressed that opinion both in public and in private.

formed in Ireland, would have been ruinous to Great-Britain, and Lord Clare was no longer consulted.

Thus the union effected through his friends, what Ireland could never accomplish through his enemies—his total overthrow. Unaccustomed to controul, and unable to submit, he returned to his country, weary, drooping, and disappointed; regretting what he had done, yet miserable that he could do no more; his importance had expired with the Irish parliament; his patronage ceased to supply food for his ambition; the mind and the body became too sympathetic for existence, and he sunk into the grave, a conspicuous example of human talent and human frailty.

Thus fell one of the most distinguished personages of the British empire. In his person he was about the middle size, slight, and not graceful; his eyes large, dark, and penetrating, betrayed some of the boldest traits of his uncommon character; his countenance, though expressive and manly, yet discovered nothing which could deceive the physiognomist into an opinion of his magnanimity, or call forth an eulogium on his virtues.

During twenty momentous and eventful years, the life of Lord Clare is, in fact, the history of Ireland; as in romance some puissant and doughty chieftain appears prominent in every feat of chivalry, the champion in every strife, the hero in every rencounter, and, after a life of toil and battle, falls surrounded by a host of foes, a victim to his own ambition and temerity.

Thus Earl Clare, throughout those periods, will be seen bold, active, and desperate, engaging fiercely in important conflict of the Irish nation; and, at length, after having sacrificed his country to his passions and his ambition, endeavouring to atone for his errors by sacrificing himself.

INTERESTING TRIALS.

COURT of CHANCERY, December 6.

GOMPERTY *v.* GOMPERTY.

THIS was a question on the construction of a will. The testator divided his property into fifteen shares—two shares to each of five sons; one share each to four daughters; and one share to the children of a daughter deceased; with an option to the sons to pay to each of the daughters 3000l. in lieu of their shares; but giving the father of the deceased daughter's children an option whether to accept of this 3000l. or take his share. The sons paid the daughters 3000l. each for their

their shares; the father of the children of the deceased daughter insisted upon his share. The daughters were to have the interest for life, the capital at their deaths to go to their lawful heirs. There were two questions here---1st, Whether the surplus of the shares of the daughters, after paying their 3000l. each, belonged to the brothers only, or whether the children of the deceased daughter had not a right to an eleventh share of it? 2d, Whether the words lawful heirs did not give an absolute property to the daughters in their shares, and of course to the sons who purchased them, notwithstanding the limitation?

The chancellor decided, that the surplus belonged to the sons only; that in the daughters' shares they had only a life-estate, remainder to their lawful heirs, and that lawful heirs here meant children.

KING's BENCH, December 7.

Before Mr. Justice Bailey and a Special Jury.

CHAMBERS *v.* BROWN.

THIS was an action to recover six different penalties on three transactions on renewals of a bill of exchange for 300l. and on three transactions on renewals of a bill of exchange for 350l. in each of which transactions usurious interest, in the names of premium, commission, &c. had been exacted by a person of the name of Launcelot, as agent for the defendant, from a gentleman of the name of Slade, who had become a bankrupt, and on whose estate the plaintiff, a respectable banker, was the assignee.

The attorney-general stated the case on the part of the plaintiff. This was not an action similar to those which juries were accustomed to meet with in the hands of common informers. The plaintiff was a gentleman of the first respectability, who, from the circumstance of his being assignee on the estate of an unfortunate gentleman of the name of Slade, had an opportunity of seeing that the most grievous extortion had been practised on the unfortunate bankrupt in some money dealings which he unluckily had with an agent of the defendant's, the common mode of their dealings being, that, for an indulgence of two months, Mr. Slade should, besides the lawful interest, pay to the defendant a premium of ten per cent. in some instances, and eight per cent. in others, and to the agent a commission of five per cent. for every two months, besides two guineas for a warrant of attorney, stamps, &c. It was from a conviction of the truth of this statement, and from a just indignation at such an abominable extortion, that the present action

action was brought. On an application to the lord chancellor, the proof of the defendant's debt, which had been improvidently allowed under the commission, was ordered to be expunged, and the bills and warrants of attorney to be delivered up to the present plaintiff. The defendant had died within these two days, but that circumstance did not prevent the present action from proceeding, the cause having stood in the paper from the first day of the present sittings, and being therefore to be understood as tried on that day, at which time the defendant was alive.

Mr. Slade, who had formerly been a gentleman of fortune, which he had lost by some unfortunate speculations in machinery, and who being a connoisseur in pictures, of which he had a considerable collection, did, by the advice of his friends, and among others of Lord Kinnaird, then become a dealer in pictures, proved the case as stated by the attorney-general. He proved three different renewals of a bill for 300l. and of a bill for 350l. by a person of the name of Launcelot, as agent for the defendant, on the first renewal of each of which there was paid, besides the legal interest, a premium of 10l. per cent. for the defendant, a commission of 5l. per cent. to the agent, two guineas for a warrant of attorney, besides stamps; and on the two after renewals, 8l. per cent. to the defendant, and the other charges as before; each of these six different payments being for renewals of two months each.

Mr. Jervis addressed the jury for the defendant, but adduced no witnesses.

After a very distinct charge by the learned judge,

The jury, without hesitation, found a verdict for the plaintiff. Damages 5850l.

COURT of KING's BENCH, WESTMINSTER,

December 12.

HUSTWICK v. JACKSON.

THIS was an action brought to recover damages against the defendant, for a cruel and unmanly assault.

Mr. Jekyll, as counsel for the prosecution, opened the case in a very able manner, stating the plaintiff to be the second mate of the ship Sinclair, an extra Indiaman, and the defendant the master and commander of that ship; that the defendant had taken frequent opportunities, during the voyage, to use the plaintiff ill, as well as all his other officers; but that, upon the homeward-bound passage, at Rio Janeiro, he called the plaintiff into the cabin, and accused him with being a spy upon his actions, for the owner; and after calling him the most

opprobrious names, struck him several times in the face, followed him upon deck, and ordered the steward to bring up his pistols, which he not doing immediately he did it himself, and presenting one to the plaintiff, which was not charged, for him to take, he presented the other to the plaintiff's breast, which was loaded, and swore, if he did not take it he would shoot him dead, and esteem him a coward; all this treatment being received by the plaintiff with great patience, he again repeatedly struck him, and asked him how he liked it?

This statement was ably supported by Mr. Dias, the first-mate, Robert Shuter, the steward, and William Rice, the carpenter, who were eye-witnesses of the cruelty and shameful conduct of the defendant.

Mr. Garrow addressed the jury in mitigation of damages; and after Lord Ellenborough had summed up the evidence, the jury retired, and then gave a verdict of 100l.

Sheriff's Court, Thursday, December 14.

SEDUCTION.

SANDERS *v.* DYSON.

THIS was an inquisition to assess damages.

Mr. Warren opened the case as counsel for the plaintiff. He stated that Mr. Saunders was a shop-keeper, at Watford, in Hertfordshire, and that the defendant, a farmer in the neighbourhood, had become acquainted with the family in 1804; his daughter was at that time about 14 years of age, and had just returned from school. The defendant professed an attachment to Miss Saunders, and was admitted by her parents as her suitor; he was often forbid the house for improper conduct (this was afterwards explained to mean not visiting regularly). In 1808, the lady came to town on a visit to a friend, and at this time the seduction took place. He had effected it by a promise of marriage, which promise he would not afterwards fulfil, unless the father gave 500l. fortune.

The fact of the seduction was proved in evidence; and it was also proved, that the defendant admitted he was worth from 800l. to 1000l. He was afterwards willing to marry the girl, and rely upon the father's generosity as to fortune. After Miss Saunders was delivered of a still-born child, he gave out, to save her character, that she was his wife. The girl had always a good character before the seduction.

Mr. Scarlett addressed the jury in mitigation of damages. He dwelt particularly on the circumstance of the father's imprudence in permitting the plaintiff's addresses to continue for such a length of time without coming to a conclusion, and de-

nied that the father was entitled to damages for the loss of his daughter's service, when the cause by which he lost that service originated when she was out of his protection. The learned counsel also contended, that the father had no right to damages for an injury which he might have prevented being made public by marrying his daughter to the defendant, and which, it appeared, the defendant was willing to conceal, by declaring she was his wife.

The under-sheriff summed up the evidence, and the jury found damages for the plaintiff 500l.

Extract from the Jubilee Sermon, preached October 25, 1809, by the Rev. John Hewlett, B. D. Morning Preacher to the Foundling Hospital, and Lecturer of the United Parishes of St. Vedast Foster and St. Michael-le-Quern.

HOWEVER common the lawless indulgence of vicious passions may be amongst us, and though some transgressions seem to mark the present times, as distinct from others; yet the fair page that shall hereafter record the virtues of George the Third, will not be sullied by one licentious act, from which the adulterer may derive the least countenance, or the thoughtless and profligate plead any excuse, for the pursuit of sensual and promiscuous pleasures.

It is of incalculable advantage to the public morals of a country, when every man enjoys the opportunity of looking up to the highest example, and of seeing the best model for the regular performance of his duties towards God and towards man, whether public, or private; whether they respect him as a husband, a father, and a friend; or merely as a member of civilized society.

But the virtues of our gracious sovereign have not been left entirely to their own silent operation. On various occasions, where authority could reach, it has been exerted with constancy and effect. In his court there has been, what every man should enforce in his own house, not only a strict attention to decorum; but every thing has been checked and discountenanced, that could lead to improprieties of conduct, and tend, through the medium of fashion, to deprave the manners of the people. While, therefore, almost every individual in very large circles has shared the gracious favour of his sovereign, and experienced the most flattering condescensions, it has been thoroughly understood, that no one was to obtrude on the royal presence, any thing in dress or deportment, offensive to that dignity, and purity, which he has always endeavoured to maintain within the walls of his palace. And it is

owing to the exemplary conduct of his majesty, under divine providence, as much, perhaps, as to any one specific cause, that the contagion of foreign manners, and of foreign vices, has not spread more widely among us; and, with neglect, or contempt of religion, produced the utter corruption of public morals.

It is truly to be deplored, that so many persons, whose rank and fortune give them great influence in society, should discover such fondness, such a marked predilection for the language, fashions, and customs of our enemies, as though we had no character of our own to maintain, or lose. It extends almost to every thing; and has already led, in a great degree, to the depravation of our native tongue; but it is in no instance, perhaps, more conspicuous, than in the eagerness with which it adopts, or prescribes, the model of our places of public entertainment, and gives those facilities to vice and intrigue, which, in some cases, may open the first doors to seduction, which are calculated to screen or perpetuate the infamous practices of others, and, by a sort of exhibition, half public and half concealed, familiarise the minds of all to scenes and objects, which, to use the words of our great moral poet, "They first endure, then pity, then embrace." That this excessive love of imitation, which is but a slavish passion at best, should run so strongly in favour, also, of that peculiar nation, which first depraved, and has since subverted a great part of the civilized world; a nation which envies, hates, and would destroy us, seems almost as preposterous as the ignorance and folly of those semi-barbarians, who are said, in their abject fear, to worship the Devil.

AN EVENING RAMBLE.

THE shepherd's pipe sweetly sounded in the vale below, accompanied by the artless notes of the rosy milk-maid, who rested her fragrant pail on a neighbouring style, as I descended the hill leading from my humble cottage, to taste the sweetness of the evening breeze. My faithful Clio, the only companion of my walk, gambolled on before me, as I struck into the most unfrequented path; and sought in solitude to ease my oppressed heart of its load of sorrows. Ambition had planted her sharpest thorns in my bosom, and filled my mind with ideas of imaginary greatness. The gilded palaces of the great, their gaudy equipages, and a long train of splendid images, occupied my thoughts too much to observe the beautiful scenery which surrounded me; and I was impious enough to repine at the decrees of providence, who had placed me in

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an humbler sphere of life, than that, in which I was foolish enough to suppose, I should enjoy perfect felicity.

Immersed in gloomy reflections, I had wandered to a considerable distance, when the loud chiming of the village clock warned me of the lateness of the hour, and I prepared to return home, when my attention was arrested by what I had not before observed—two mendicant children sleeping on a mossy bank by the hedge side; the pale beams of Cynthia, who had by this time risen, discovered their rosy countenances glowing with health and beauty. The arm of the little boy was thrown round his sister (for such I supposed her to be,) and his flaxen hair fell in luxuriant ringlets over her white neck, while the evening zephyr sported among the tattered apparel which scarcely covered their little forms. Peacefully they slept, the smile of content dimpled their cherub faces, and happiness seemed to spread her snow-white pinions o'er the massy bed of these children of want. What an impression did this scene make on my mind! the sense of my impiety rushed forcibly to my thoughts, as I surveyed the scene around me. I felt how deeply I had erred in repining at the will of my Creator, who had given me more than a sufficiency, while the babes who lay before me had no roof to cover them but the starry heavens, no bed but the cold damp ground. I sank on my knees beside them—Sleep on, sweet children! I exclaimed; for innocence wants no safeguard, and that Almighty Power, without whose permission not a sparrow falls to the ground, shall protect your infant slumbers, and watch over your safety. You have taught me a lesson I never shall forget. Never again, oh Power Supreme! will I dare murmur at thy divine will, or let the sigh of discontent heave my bosom. My humble dwelling shall be open to the child of misery, and the little I have, I will share with the unfortunate. Pomp and grandeur shall no longer fill my mind with restless wishes, for I know that

> All the good that individuals find,
> Or God and nature meant to mere mankind,
> Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of sense,
> Lie in three words, health, peace, and competence.

Exeter. F. I.

PRESENT STATE *of* NAPLES.

WHOEVER formerly approached the city of Naples, if possessed of a liberal education, felt himself transported with a variety of the most agreeable sensations, on treading and exploring this classic ground.

These pleasing illusions are now vanished; and a very different scene presents itself to the eye and the heart of the curious traveller. Below the aancient Anxur, you observe several picquets, at different stations; at Cicero's grave you may imagine that you still hear the loud resounding thunders of the siege of Gaeta; and at Baia, the circumstance of having been compelled to relinquish Capri, will not afford a friend to England the most agreeable recollections. As to the Elysian Fields, their once celebrated beauties have lost their powers of fascination; before you can reach them, you are obliged to pass the gibbets, where the unfortunate briganti are hanging by half-dozens; in short, every scene around is so much altered from its former poetical character, that you feel chilled, and look in vain for those original features, so much adored and beloved by the muses.

It must, however, be confessed, that better order is preserved now than formerly. At night the streets are well lighted, even when the moon, no where more resplendent than here, displays her silver lamp in the cloudless heavens. And in the Strada di Toledo, one of the most beautiful streets of the city, which formerly presented the tumultuous appearance of a perpetual fair, you may now walk or ride without interruption, the market people being ordered to different new and regular market-places.

Whoever has seen the former state of the Strada di Toledo, would not, however, be displeased to re-view that scene of unparalled confusion. The sacrifices of every season were offered on this altar of abundance; whatever the earth or the sea afforded from their bosoms, whatever the air or sun had produced for the gratification of the most luxurious palates, was here seen in a profusion calculated to excite astonishment. The Strada di Toledo was exhausted a hundred times in a day; and a hundred times, nay every moment, a power which seemed to operate like a magic charm, replenished it with a new and surprising abundance; in short, in less than an hour, in this one street, you might have found every requisite for furnishing the most sumptuous and exquisite entertainments, for a constant succession of almost innumerable guests.

However, this Strada still retains some entertaining features; and notwithstanding the interference of the messengers of the police, admonishing the sellers to withdraw to the market-places; attached to the ground on which they were so long accustomed to encamp, many run the risk of punishment by stealing a temporary return to their old stations, where, even at present, they may be certain of the readiest sale.

The price of provisions has been said to have risen very high under the present system; but if there any truth in the assertion, it most probably relates only to fish; for as the fishermen

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are obliged every day to take out fresh cards of permission to go a fishing, and as they are not allowed to run out beyond certain marks, nor to set off earlier, nor return later, than certain hours announced by the signal guns, it is natural to suppose that they must often lose the best seasons and opportunities for following their occupation with success.

You might have imagined, that after the interdiction of all manner of communication with Sicily, oranges would have been scarcer; but Naples, and the surrounding country, afford such quantities of oranges, lemons, and other fruits, that the scarcity has been very inconsiderable, if at all perceptible. The fruits of Messina having hitherto enjoyed the preference, the luxuriant produce of the environs of Naples only wanted an opportunity for sale; and though the Neapolitans say of the Messina fruits, *sone piu dolce*, yet the difference is so trifling that a foreigner could scarcely distinguish it.

The abundance of vegetables which came to market in the year 1808 was truly astonishing; and indeed any kind of vegetables may be had here, almost throughout the year, and are particularly plentiful from March to December. The French, who prize their dear Paris and its environs beyond all other places, are nevertheless forced to confess, that there is only "one Naples:" even the minister of the affairs of the kingdom, in his report of the state of the nation for 1807 and 1808, published in March, 1808, calls the country unique, in point of situation and fertility.

Yet, in this most luxuriant region, where nature seems lavish of her bounty, you will observe a degree of poverty, perhaps unequalled in any other European country, pervade the general classes of society. The real misery, however, is not to be judged of by what is seen in public, for where is there a country where poor and idle vagabonds are not to be found in the streets? It is in private, where real distress reigns attended by want, and all its train of horrors. Much of this is owing to the secularization of the convents and monasteries, for very great numbers of the poor were accustomed to receive their soups and dinners from the charitable inhabitants of the cloisters, and the suppression of so many religious houses, occassoned murmurs deep and loud, the result of a despair unattended by either riots or excesses. With regard to the nobility, the greater part of that class, and the other superior ranks, who were rich proprietors, being borne down by the weight of taxes and contributions, and unable to reimburse themselves for their losses by following any particular branch of industry, are wretchedly involved in debt, and many of them cannot conceal the most deplorable poverty. On the other hand, as is generally the case in all revolutions, several of the lower classes have risen to opulence, and loll in their coaches, while others,

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long accustomed to ride in coaches, are now obliged to move very humbly on foot. Instances of this nature, are not, however, strikingly frequent.

The Neapolitans have certainly been reduced to a better state of order than formerly. That natural vivacity for which they were peculiarly distinguished, and which appeared so striking to every observer, has given way to an appearance of reserve and fear—that fear, however, is not a sensation of slavish anxiety, but rather the result of a cautious judgment, arising from the natural perspicuity of a sharp-sighted people. That great advantages have been derived from the system pursued by the present government, must be allowed by every person who gives credit to the official report of the minister, according to which the number of robberies has diminished one-third, and of murders two-thirds, since the occupation of the country by the French.

It would be a great pity, if the natural *bon homme* and original *naivetè* of the true Neapolitan, in short, his peculiar national character of mind, should be entirely lost, which seems to become the case more and more every day, though it can scarcely be supposed, that any external circumstances, operating upon a nation, should have so decided an effect on the national character. It is very difficult to bend any people to the adoption of foreign manners, or give them a foreign turn of mind. It is that originality of character, arising from the advantages of soil and climate, which the Neapolitans derive from natute, which will oppose the greatest obstacle to the admission of foreign intrusions.

Two points have been remarked as the most striking traits in the character of the Neapolitans, viz. their vehement passions; and the coolness of mind with which they contrive their plans of vengeance. Both points seem to cast a dark shade upon their character; but in reality, they prove no more, than that this people possess the original qualities of a noble and powerful nation. On a slender enquiry it will be impossible to refuse the Neapolitans our esteem, notwithstanding their real or apparent faults, on considering them in the various points of view in which they are represented in the latest histories.

In comparing them with their neighbours, they are distinguished from them by a natural gaiety and ceaseless activity. In all his misery, the Neapolitan will not yield to despair; there always remains an energetic spark of animation in him, which glows in secret, and often suddenly revives into a flame, when it seems entirely extinguished; like the vegetative power in the vine-branch after it has been stripped of its leaf. Very often you behold him deprived of all, and reduced to the utmost want and misery, yet supporting all his privations with a dignity which claims respect. Even on observing those miserable

serable wretches, formerly called lazzaroni, you would be induced to suppose, they had never experienced any difficulties, or disasters, so proudly, and with such a contemptuous look of indifference, do they seem to regard the world and their existence.

The attachment of this people to its former government is peculiarly striking, though they openly acknowledge its numerous imperfections: though the taxes increased every year; though the personal expenses of their sovereign were enormous and oppressive; and though the wickedness of the government was not only conspicuous, but notorious; yet no where could there exist less apprehensions of an approaching revolution. The sensations produced by the impossibility of fulfilling their promises to Queen Caroline, were of the most poignant nature; but the violence of their emotions, by degrees, subsided into a calmer state of feelings.

In the year 1805, when Bonaparte had evacuated Tarento, and withdrawn his troops, the unanimous prayer of the people, as if animated by one voice and spirit, was, "That it might please God to moderate the passions of the queen;" and yet after the consequences had justified their apprehensions, and they had every right to consider themselves as the victims of a mistaken policy, they would have still continued to exert themselves to the utmost of their power for their old government, had there been the smallest probability of success.

The conspiracies discovered in Calabria, and even in the city of Naples itself, are sufficient to demonstrate of what exertions the people would have been capable, had they been blest with a wise and equitable government. Time has fully unveiled the transactions of the former government, and yet a strong party still remains attached to the old dynasty. Ferdinand and Caroline have, indeed, reason to remember Naples with sentiments of affection and feelings of regret: a people, like the Neapolitans, and a fidelity equal to their's, they never will find again.

All the excesses which formerly prevailed at Naples, were but the natural consequences of a bad government, and a defective police; for had a different system been adopted, the people would have been managed with little or no difficulty: and indeed it is impossible, that any people could have manifested so sincere an attachment to their government, without possessing an abundant portion of *bon homme*.

FLAX.

THE Rev. Dr Hall, provost of Trinity College, presented the following letter, with samples of flax from ragwort

and broom, to the Dublin society, which may be considered as a valuable improvement :—

" *St. Martin's-lane*, 137, *London*, *November* 16, 1809.

" I have been induced, during my leisure hours, to investigate the nature and use of our common, but neglected plants, and broom amongst the rest ; and the consequence is, that in the upper branches of broom of all kinds, I find a considerable quantity of flax, of which the enclosed are specimens in a rough state.

" To procure flax from broom, the twigs, or former year's branches, must be steeped for two or three weeks, according to the heat of the season, in stagnant water, or boiled for an hour, or thereabout, in water. This done, the flax comes freely from the twigs ; and, where there is no machinery for the purpose, may be easily peeled or stripped off by children at any time, when not quite dry, in the same way that hemp is peeled from the stalks. And what adds to the value of the discovery of broom flax is, that on being cleared of the flax, and steeped some time in boiling water, the twigs or wood become tough and beautifully white, and worth from a shilling to eighteen pence per pound for making carpet brooms, &c.

" When stripped from the twigs, the flax requires only to be washed well in cold water, then wrung, shaken well, and hung out to dry, previous to its being sent off to the paper manufacturers, &c. where it will be always sure to find a ready market at a certain rate per pound.

" The white of the inclosed specimens is the common ragwort, a considerable quantity of which I observed in many parts of Ireland ; but, though it is a beautiful article, and may be applied to many practical purposes, yet, so far as I have discovered, it will not pay for the trouble in procuring it. There is something uncommonly beautiful in the fibres of mallows of all kinds, particularly the malva sylvestris. There is a good deal of flax in all kind of rushes, evidently calculated, in an eminent degree, for making paper ; but I have not yet been able to discover a cheap method of separating it from the thin, green, outer coat that surrounds it.

" I am, &c.

" J. HALL."

To the Rev. Dr. Hall, Provost, T. C. D.

REFLECTION.

TIME is one of the most valuable talents committed to our care, and the due improvement of it is a mark of real wisdom.

MANCHINEL TREE.

THE manchinel tree grows near the sea, in a sandy soil, in almost every island in the West Indies. It is commonly about the size of a large orchard apple-tree, and bears an apple of the bigness of the pippin, and, as far as appearance goes, exactly like one—but woe to any one whom ignorance may tempt to eat thereof, as the whole of it is of the most corrosive nature: the leaves are equally poisonous; and I have myself, when I was first at Barbadoes, felt their disagreeable quality, by having my hands completely blistered (as from scalding water) by the drops of rain which fell from the leaves of one of them, under which I had taken shelter, to avoid a sudden shower

At the same island, in 1796, a soldier of the royal Irish artillery, named M'Dermott, in cutting some branches off one of these trees to boil his kettle, the milky sap flew in his face; and some of it getting into his eyes, he was confined to the hospital for upwards of three months, and his sight with great difficulty preserved to him, not without leaving strong marks of the virulence of the poison. I could mention many more instances, some of them rather ludicrous—as when, in imitation of the ancients, leaves have been used for paper. Nothing grows beneath its deadly shade, not a blade of grass is to be seen near it, no beast ever takes shelter under its boughs, nor do the fowls of heaven ever alight on its branches, no insect ever crawls on its trunk; all that in nature are governed by instinct shun it as their bane; man only, left to blind ignorance, ever suffers from its effect. Whether the account of the upas tree of Java be fabulous or not, the manchinel fully proves, that similar vegetable poisons are in nature; and what may be a fable in the east, is reduced to a disagreeable truth in the west.

CORNARO.

THIS celebrated Venetian, who wrote on the utility of an abstemious regimen, was, 'till his fortieth year, tormented with maladies that embittered his existence. He at length resolved to change his mode of living, and in one year after the observance of the temperate plan, his complaint entirely disappeared, nor had he ever afterwards occasion to have recourse to medicine. He continued healthful and chearful, to his eighteth year, retaining so perfectly his mental and corporeal faculties, that he affirmed he could, at that age, perform most of those things that he had been accustomed to do in his youth. He died quietly in his chair, but little harassed either with sickness or pain, in 1631.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SONNET,

WRITTEN AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN.

PHŒBE! to thee my muse, an artless lay,
Breathes from her oaten reed, if Phœbe deign
To listen, whilst no mimic notes I play
Inspir'd by adulation! Idle strain!
Tho' where the roseate nymphs of fancy stray
Amidst poetic landscapes I survey
Thy form still brighter than the blooming train;
Yet, with no soothing song thy heart to please
My verse shall point, where flutters down yon glade
Thy comrade VANITY! To each light breeze
Swells her gay robe, and o'er its floating shade
Dances her eye! Ah! rather, lovely maid,
From sweet SIMPLICITY, ask genuine ease!

P.

THE FRIAR OF ORDERS GRAY.

IT was a friar of orders gray,
Walk'd forth to tell his beads;
And he met with a lady fair,
Clad in a pilgrim's weeds.

"Now, Christ thee save, thou reverend friar!
I pray thee tell to me,
If ever at yon holy shrine
My true love thou didst see?"

"And how should I know your true love,
From many another one?"
"Oh! by his cockle-hat, and staff,
And by his sandal shoon:

But chiefly by his face and mien,
That were so fair to view;
His flaxen locks, that sweetly curl'd,
And eyes of lovely blue."

"O lady, he is dead and gone!
Lady, he's dead and gone!
And at his head a green grass turf,
And at his heels a stone.

Within these holy cloisters long
He languish'd, and he died,
Lamenting of a lady's love,
And plaining of her pride.

Here bare him barefac'd on his bier
Six proper youths and tall,
And many a tear bedew'd his grave
Within yon kirk-yard wall."

"And

" And art thou dead, thou gentle youth?
And art thou dead and gone?
And didst thou die for love of me?
Break, cruel heart of stone!"

" Oh! weep not, lady! weep not so;
Some ghostly comfort seek;
Let not vain sorrow rive thy heart,
Nor tears bedew thy cheek."

" Oh! do not, do not, holy friar,
My sorrow now reprove;
For I have lost the sweetest youth
That e'er won lady's love.

And now, alas! for thy sad loss
I'll evermore weep and sigh:
For thee I only wish'd to live,
For thee I wish to die."

" Weep no more, lady, weep no more,
Thy sorrow is in vain:
For violets pluck'd the sweetest showers
Will ne'er make grow again.

Our joys as winged dreams do fly,
Why then should sorrow last?
Since grief but aggravates thy loss,
Grieve not for what is past."

" Oh! say not so, thou holy friar;
I pray thee, say not so:
For since my true-love died for me,
'Tis meet my tears should flow.

And will he ne'er more come again?
Will he ne'er come again?
Ah! no he is dead, and laid in his grave,
For ever to remain.

His cheek was redder than the rose,
The comeliest youth was he:
But he is dead, and laid in his grave:
Alas, and woe is me!"

" Sigh no more, lady, sigh no more,
Men were deceivers ever:
One foot on sea and one on land,
To one thing constant never.

Hadst thou been fond, he had been false,
And left thee sad and heavy;
For young men ever were fickle found,
Since summer trees were leafy."

" Now say not so, thou holy friar,
I pray thee say not so!
My love he had the truest heart:
Oh he was ever true!

And art thou dead, thou much lov'd youth,
And didst thou die for me?
Then farewell home! for evermore
A pilgrim I will be!

But first upon my true-love's grave
My weary limbs I'll lay,

And thrice I'll kiss the green-grass turf
That wraps his breathless clay."

Yet stay, fair lady; rest awhile
Beneath this cloister wall:
See thro' the hawthorn blows the cold wind,
And drizzly rain doth fall."

" Oh! stay me not, thou holy friar;
Oh stay me not, I pray!
No drizzly rain that falls on me,
Can wash my fault away."

" Yet stay, fair lady, turn again,
And dry those pearly tears;
For see, beneath this gown of gray,
Thy own true-love appears.

Here forc'd by grief, and hopeless love,
These holy weeds I sought;
And here, amid these lonely walls,
To end my days I thought.

But haply (for my year of grace
Is not yet past away,)
Might I still hope to win thy love,
No longer would I stay."

" Now farewell grief, and welcome joy
Once more unto my heart:
For since I have found thee, lovely youth,
We never more will part."

END OF THE FORTY-NINTH VOLUME.

James Langdon, Printer, Sherborne.

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FORTY-NINTH VOLUME

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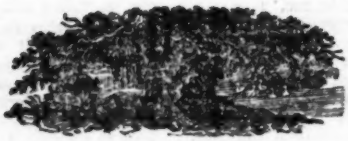
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